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THE
FIFTY-THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NORWICH AND NEW LONDON
Foreign Missionary Society

Meeting held in New London, Oct. 18th, 1865.

NEW LONDON :

STARR AND FARNHAM, PRINTERS, CORNER STATE AND MAIN STREETS.

1865.

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MISSIONARY MEETING.

The Fifty-Third Annual Meeting of the Foreign Missionary Society connected with the Congregational Churches of New London County, was held in the First Congregational Church in New London, Wednesday, October 18th, 1865, at 2 P. M.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, President, in the chair.

The meeting was opened by reading the eighty-fourth Psalm, by Rev. Mr. Northrop, followed with prayer by Rev. Mr. Shipman, and singing.

The address of the President and report of the Secretary, will be found in the following pages.

Rev. Mr. Gulliver, of Norwich, and Gov. Buckingham, occupied the remainder of the time in the afternoon meeting. Their remarks on the general work of Missions and our own duty in sending the gospel to the heathen, commanded the close attention of the audience.

As the close of the afternoon meeting, the following officers were elected,

PRESIDENT,

WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

WILLIAM A. BUCKINGHAM,

WILLIAM C. CRUMP.

SECRETARY,

HENRY P. HAVEN.

TREASURERS,

LEWIS A. HYDE,

CHARLES BUTLER.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Rev. A. BOND,

" H. P. ARMS,

" T. L. SHIPMAN,

" R. P. STANTON,

" T. P. FIELD.

Adjourned to 7 o'clock.

Evening meeting opened at 7 o'clock with prayer by Rev. Mr. Ayer. Rev Geo. W. Wood, one of the Secretaries of the American Board, and Rev. Messrs. Willcox and Field, who had attended the recent meeting at Chicago, gave addresses of unusual interest.

Closing prayer and benediction by Rev. Mr. Northrop.

The attendance was not large, but the exercises were fully equal in interest to any of our previous meetings.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Patrons and Friends of the Norwich and New London Foreign Missionary Society :

Through the good providence of God our lives are spared, and we are permitted to meet the County Missionary Society Auxiliary to the American Board, in this city, where we met for a like purpose two years since. As some may remember, we were then favored with an interesting address by Rev. Dr. Gulick, a returned Missionary from the Island of Micronesia. That period was the dawn of a work of grace in some of those Islands, that has by the goodness of God extended among other groups, and forms the most important of Missionary intelligence from the Pacific.

The Parent Society having recently held its annual session in the Metropolis of the West, we may expect from the delegation of the Board such communications as will interest us who were not in attendance. Yet, we learn an important fact that the Board begins the fiscal year without a debt—a just cause of congratulation to its patrons.

Men and means constitute under God the agencies of conducting this great work, instituted by our Saviour to recover our lost world. The exercise of Faith is tested in the consecration by individuals of their lives to this command of Christ, and in this follows the obligation of the Churches to sustain the Board under whose orders they go forth to teach and to preach His Gospel. Thus the professed followers of the Saviour are called to come up to the help of the Lord in this great work. To some it seems hard to deny themselves to enlighten and convert a people the other side of the globe, speaking a foreign dialect, and of whom they have merely a geographical knowledge, with whom they have no affinity, and can have no access except by our Missionaries, who must first learn their language and give a course of years of in-

struction before results can be expected. Yet when we look for the command to do this, we see that it emanates from Him who is to be our Judge, and who knows the end from the beginning. Do we not honor Him in our obedience, and in the sacrifice it involves far more than we do in the provision we make for preaching the gospel at home, and in the establishment of schools, for in these we receive returns to ourselves and to our families, but in the other we obey a great command without seeing the benefits that are to accrue to us here. Yet, to strengthen our faith to go forward, we recall the question put to the Apostle Peter by the Divine Author,—“Lovest thou me? feed my lambs.” Again, “Lovest thou me? feed my sheep;” thus comes the test of our disciple-ship and of our faith, remembering it was He who said to the Apostle Thomas, “Be not faithless, but believing.” Again, “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” With these promises so precious to a believer, may we not trust in Him and go forward?

Among the prominent events since our last annual meeting, we are permitted to rejoice in the suppression of the rebellion, the termination of civil war in our land, and with it the Emancipation of the African race. He who presides over all, has wrought this. To Him be the praise. Our hearts were saddened in the progress of the war by the sacrifice of many valuable lives, and the distress it carried into families. Yet, He who controls the tempest has brought good out of evil. We can say with truth, this is *the Land of the Free*.

This great moral change carries unnumbered benefits to those of the African race in our land. Their elevation to the instruction of the Common School, and the exercise of their religious privileges, will confer a blessing upon a large class of hitherto ignorant white population in those States where Slavery existed, who will also rise in the scale of being through the civil and religious institutions of our land. This opens the door wide for Home Missions and sounds a call that will be long and loud, “Come over and help us.” In this we see realized the remark of a member of the Massachusetts legislature when the charter to the American Board of Commissioners was granted, that “religion was that kind of commodity, the more we exported the more we had at home.”

Among the Indian tribes of our country there is much to influence our government to pursue a pacific course rather than a resort to the

cruel oppression of the sword. Preaching of the gospel, opening schools, cultivating the land, and the introduction of the mechanic arts, with the prompt and just payment of their annuities, are means more adapted to promote peace and advance their civilization than the presence of armed batallions. In the illustration of a course of civilization we have only to bring before you the two tribes in our vicinity. While by neglect the Pequot tribe have dwindled to a few huts about Lantern Hill, their land mostly sold from them, the Mohegans retain and cultivate their land, have the school house and house of worship where the ordinances are administered on the sabbath, and where they assemble and retire with the decorum of a christian community. We commend these descendants of the Aborigines to your sympathy and your kind offices.

The Treasurer's Report of this Auxiliary will show how far we have contributed to aid the American Board in their constant work to give the Gospel to the Heathen. Grateful that we have been permitted to take any part in it, we can only say, we have been unprofitable servants, we have done only that which was our duty to do.

OCTOBER 18th, 1865.

THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE NORWICH AND NEW LONDON FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The good Providence of the Lord having spared us through the months of another year, we meet this afternoon with the oldest christian church in the county, to hold our Fifty-Third Anniversary exercises.

These annual gatherings of the friends of Missions connected with the Congregational Churches in our vicinity, have increased in interest since the Union of our two Societies in 1849, and we believe they have been instrumental in some degree at least, in forwarding the great work of the American Board to which we are auxiliary. The uniform presence among us of representatives from the Parent Society in the persons not only of Missionary brethren returned from their fields of labor, but also of one of the worthy Secretaries, adds very much to the interest of our annual gatherings and tends to bind us in closer connection to the great work. No special oversight of any portion of the Missionary field is committed to us. We are only a small wheel revolving in a local sphere, yet we have a place to fill, and as we carry up our annual offerings to the Parent Treasury, we are gratified to find that more than one-fiftieth part of the disbursements of the American Board for the two past years have been met by our contributions.

The fifty-fifth anniversary of the Board has just been held at Chicago. Far away towards the prairies of the West, the New England brethren were called this year to take up their line of march and hold their feast of in-gathering, where less than fifty years ago the wild Indian roamed over a vast howling wilderness. In the earlier years of our Missionary work, what we now call the West, was a field for labor then esteemed

as properly belonging to a Foreign Society. Civilization and christianity have moved rapidly forward in our day, and from the shores of the Pacific a golden stream now flows into our Treasury, with the same regularity that characterizes the contributions of the Eastern States.

Looking forward into the future we seem to see our now free Republic, pushing with renewed vigor into the fertile valleys of the great father of waters and resting not until all the broad plains and prairies east of the Rocky Mountain range, teem with the busy din of industry and civilized life. And as these years roll on and new states come knocking at the doors of the Union, let us be thankful that other christian agencies closely allied to us in the Polity of our Pilgrim Fathers, are following the march of population, planting the church and school house of New England on their way, and moulding the institutions of the territory which is so rapidly forming into States. Doubtless ere this generation passes away, the city where the Board has recently met will stand as in the very centre of our Congregational Churches, and we expect to see, if God should spare our lives even less than a score of years, our christian brethren on the shores of the Pacific, welcoming the anniversary meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

We cannot to-day fail christian friends to thank God for the way in which he has led us and all the goodness he has shown to us in our Missionary work the past five years. When we met in Norwich, in October, 1861, how sad were our hearts and how gloomily we looked into the future, We could no longer walk by sight. War with all its desolations was upon us. Our country lay torn asunder, bleeding and groaning in all its length and breadth. The energies of business were paralyzed and the strong ones who had stood firmly around the American Board in its days of financial distress, were fearing their own shipwreck. But ours was the work of the Lord, and we heard his voice bidding us go forward as before. In faith we have moved along and to-day let us bless the Lord our God, that in our long struggle for freedom and national life, not one Missionary has been recalled from his field of labor, not one press in heathen land has been stopped and that the stream of christian benevolence has flowed uninterruptedly into our Treasury each year, leaving at the close of the war the Missions of the Board in full progress, its expenditures paid by contributions and all indebtedness cancelled.

Our sons and our brothers have indeed fallen, and many a Missionary of Jesus weeps to-day over a beloved one whose grave was made on Southern soil. But 'twas only blood that could wash out the terrible sin and guilt of our land. Our noble young men offered themselves and the soil polluted by the curse of slavery, was made red with their free flowing blood. At length the courage and valor of our heroes was rewarded, the armies of the rebellion surrendered and we vainly thought the price was paid in full and retribution completely made. But Gods ways are not our ways, his thoughts not as our thoughts. On his eternal throne in the heavens he had seen the cruel bondage and heard for more than two hundred years the groans of the suffering sons of Ethiopia. More precious blood was wanted, one more sacrifice was called for, and the nation laid the noblest and most honored of its sons upon the altar. Then as the blood of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, flowed in the capital of his country, the destroying angel sheathed his sword and our nation became not only the *home of the brave* but the *land of the Free*.

But the glorious thoughts that press upon us to-day are perhaps hardly in place in this local Missionary meeting, and yet noting as we do from year to year the great movements of God's Providence in our country as well as in the heathen world, we could not forbear to mention the wonderful works of the Lord in mercy as well as in judgment, and to unite in thanksgiving unto his holy name for all his goodness to us as a nation as well as to our Missionary Society in the past five years.

But few of the members of our churches have enjoyed the privilege of attending the last meeting of the Board at Chicago. We learn that as heretofore the presence of the great master of assemblies was manifestly with our brethren and friends, and that their souls were stirred to go forward in the good work of the Lord, One venerable father in Israel, Rev. Dr. Goodell, for more than 40 years a Missionary in Turkey, was present to greet with the fraternal love of the churches of Asia and Western Europe, the Board that had so long sustained him in his work. Being too feeble to speak in the great assembly, he cheered the meeting with his written words of christian zeal and love, and congratulated the Board which he had known as a little one 50 years ago, now become a thousand. But we cannot here attempt any details of the recent meeting; some of our Pastors who journeyed more than 1000 miles to sit down at that feast, can tell us of the heavenly food that was set before them, and to-day we shall doubtless have the privilege of

learning from their lips the leading items of interest brought before that noble body of christian disciples, even fit representatives of the pilgrim fathers of New England.

The experience of fifty years has proved that our churches have determined to sustain the American Board by their contributions. But, another question of more serious import is pressing upon the christians of our day. The laborers are few. God has made ready the harvest. Where are the reapers? Never perhaps have there been more open doors in the heathen field with fewer to enter them. Where are the men and the women to carry the bread of life to the dark places of the earth? How shall they hear without a preacher? We are called upon to do all that we can to meet this great want and especially to pray to the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. This subject was brought prominently before the recent meeting at Chicago, and the Secretaries of the Board will appeal the present year to the young men in our Theological Schools to give themselves to the Foreign Missionary work.

Turning to our own local work in this county, the figures shown by our contributions for the past year are far from satisfactory.

Our Donations have <i>decreased</i>	\$379 86
Our Legacies " "	5,830 00

This deficiency of over Six Thousand Dollars from within the limits of this Auxiliary, has been made up and more than made up by the liberality of the friends of the Board, but we have sadly failed in our duty to this great work of christian benevolence.

According to our usual custom we present herewith the donations and legacies of the past year. Twenty-nine of the thirty-three Congregational Churches in this county are connected with this Auxiliary, and reported to the General Association in the State in June, 1885, 3896 members.

Amount of donations within our limits as acknowledged by the

Parent Society, for the year ending Sept. 1st, 1864,	\$9,978 65
For the year ending Sept. 1st, 1865,	9,588 69

Decrease this year,	\$389 96
Average contributed by each church member last year,	2 58
Average this year,	2 33

The amount contributed from each Parish, and the average to each church member is as follows :

	Amount	Members.	Average
New London, First,.....	\$1,692 19	241	\$7 02
Norwich, Broadway,.....	2,102 01	352	5 97
Fitchville,.....	121 00	26	4 63
New London, Second,.....	1,216 91	289	4 21
Norwich, Second,.....	1,159 34	320	3 59
North Stonington,.....	240 00	97	2 46
Goshen, (Lebanon),.....	161 55	84	1 92
Mystic Bridge,.....	210 57	125	1 68
Montville,.....	176 50	120	1 47
Groton,.....	140 65	98	1 43
Stonington, Second,.....	233 00	179	1 30
Mohegan,.....	25 00	20	1 25
Franklin,.....	158 85	136	1 16
Norwich, First,.....	270 93	223	1 20
Salem,.....	48 10	66	73
Jewett City,.....	73 00	103	71
Griswold,.....	74 20	119	62
Lebanon,.....	78 20	128	61
Lebanon, (Exeter,).....	44 05	77	56
Greenville,.....	109 20	216	50
Stonington, First,.....	33 03	75	44
Colchester,.....	122 00	283	43
Ledyard,.....	30 06	73	41
East Lyme,.....	20 00	60	30
Preston,.....	17 96	71	24
Bozrah, (New Concord),.....	16 90	69	24
Lisbon,.....	13 55	88	15
Sprague.....		109	
Bozrahville,.....		51	
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$8,588 69	3896	
Unknown,.....	1,000 00		
Legacy of Ths. Kinnie, Norwich,.....	250 00		
	<hr/>		
	\$9,838 69		

The following Churches have *increased* their donations the past year :

Franklin,.....	\$104 17
New London. Second,.....	51 51
Stonington, Second,.....	44 61
Stonington. First,.....	33 03
Lebanon Exeter,.....	32 55
Lebanon, Goshen,.....	27 73
Salem,.....	23 92
Greenville,.....	19 90
Griswold,.....	9 90
Jewett City,.....	9 00
Colchester,.....	6 92
	<hr/>
	\$363 24

The following Churches have *decreased* their donations the past year :

New London, First,	\$843 10
Norwich, Second,	193 09
Montville,	159 20
Norwich, Broadway,.....	149 30
North Stonington,.....	121 75
Mystic Bridge,.....	74 13
Preston,	52 54
Norwich, First,.....	45 10
Fitchville,.....	44 00
Groton,.....	22 31
Sprague,.....	16 83
Lebanon,	13 05
Lisbon,	4 95
Bozrah,.....	3 75
	<hr/>
	\$1,743 10

These figures tell their own story. We thank the liberal individual who has donated One Thousand Dollars, but who will not allow the injunction of the Saviour "let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth," to be violated. All that we are permitted to say respecting the donor is that it is not from a resident of either of our cities. May the Lord stir up many others to follow this example of liberality and lead each one of us to give as the Lord prospers us to this great work of christian benevolence.

HENRY P. HAVEN, *Secretary*,

NEW LONDON, October 18th, 1865.

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